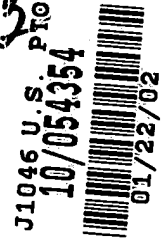


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-1278-B)

PATENT



In the Application of:)
)
 Lawton, et al.)
) Art Unit: To be assigned
Serial No.: **TBA**)
) Examiner: To be assigned
Filed: **January 22, 2002**)
)
For: **Compositions and Methods for Detection**)
 Of Ehrlichia Canis and Ehrlichia)
 Chaffeensis Antibodies)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure provided by 35 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§ 1.97-98, the applicants wish to make the following references of record in the above-identified application. Copies of the references are enclosed. Copies are also listed in the PTO-1449 form enclosed herewith. It is requested that the documents be given careful consideration and that they be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application so that they will appear on the face of the patent issuing from the present application.

In the judgment of the undersigned, portions of the references may be material to the examination of the pending claims, however no such admission is intended. 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (h). The references have not been reviewed in sufficient detail to make any

other representation and, in particular, no representation is indented as to the relative importance of any portion of the references. This Statement is not a representation that the cited references have effective dates early enough to be "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 102 or 103.

CITED REFERENCES

U.S. Patent Documents

<u>Document</u>				<u>Filing Date</u>
<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>If appropriate</u>
5,726,010	3/10/98	Clark	435	7/31/91
6,025,338	2/15/00	Barbet, et al.	514	10/17/96
6,207,169 B1	3/27/01	Reed, et al.	424	11/20/97
6,231,869 B1	5/15/01	Reed, et al.	424	3/21/97
6,251,872 B1	6/26/01	Barbet, et al.	514	10/17/97

Foreign Documents

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
<u>Number</u>		
WO 99/13720	3/25/99	PCT

Other Documents

- 1) Ohashi, et al., "Immunodominant Major Outer Membrane Proteins of *Ehrlichia chaffeensis* are Encoded by a Polymorphic Multigene Family", *Infection and Immunity*, p. 132-139, Vol. 66, No. 1, 1998
- 2) Ohashi, et al., "Cloning and Characterization of Multigenes Encoding the Immunodominant 30-Kilodalton Major Outer Membrane Proteins of *Ehrlichia Canis* and Application of the Recombinant Protein for Serodiagnosis", *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, p. 2671-2680, Vol. 36, No. 9, Sept. 1998
- 3) Yu, et al., "Genetic Diversity of the 28-Kilodalton Outer Membrane Protein Gene in Human Isolates of *Ehrlichia Chaffeensis*", *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, p. 1137-1143, Vol. 37, No. 4, April 1999
- 4) McBride, et al., "Molecular Cloning of the Gene for a Conserved Major Immunoreactive 28-Kilodalton Protein of *Ehrlichia canis*: a Potential


Serodiagnostic Antigen", Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology, p. 392-399, Vol. 6, No. 3, May 1999

- 5) Yu, et al., "*Comparison of Ehrlichia chaffeensis Recombinant Proteins for Serologic Diagnosis of Human Monocytotropic Ehrlichiosis*", *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, p. 2568-2575, Vol. 37, No. 8, Aug. 1999
- 6) Yu, et al., "*Characterization of the complete transcriptionally active Ehrlichia chaffeensis 28 kDa outer membrane protein multigene family*", *Gene* 248, p. 59-68, December 1999
- 7) McBride, et al., "*A conserved, transcriptionally active p28 multigene locus of Ehrlichia canis*", *Gene* 254, p. 245-252, February 2000
- 8) Suksawat, et al., "*Seroprevalence of Ehrlichia canis, Ehrlichia equi, and Ehrlichia risticii in Sick Dogs from North Carolina and Virginia*", *J. Vet. Intern. Med.*, 14:50-55, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 22, 2002

by:


Lisa M.W. Hillman
Reg. No. 43,673